



Division of Child Safety and Family Services

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Charles Flanagan
Director

Information for Release		5/29/2014
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Date of the notification to DCSFS: 3/23/2014

Near Fatality

Date of fatality or near fatality: 3/23/2014

Child's name: Christopher

Age at time of incident: 1 year

Alleged perpetrator(s) name and age:

Melinda Neemann – age 20

City, town or general location of residence of the child and alleged perpetrator(s):

Phoenix, Arizona

Circumstances of the fatality or near fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:

On March 23, 2014, a report was received when Melinda Neemann, mother to 1-year-old Christopher, left him unattended in the bathtub with the water running. Ms. Neemann found Christopher face down in the tub and unresponsive when she returned. Ms. Neemann attempted CPR and contacted a relative who called 911.

Whether DCSFS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian*:

DCSFS has received one prior report involving Christopher and Ms. Neemann:

On March 15, 2014, a report was received when Phoenix police responded to calls of a loud verbal fight at the home of Melinda Neemann. Police found the home to be filthy and Ms. Neemann was being evicted due to the fight and the condition of the home. Christopher was observed to be dirty and wearing only a soiled diaper. He was also playing with a plastic bag which police took away from him. DCSFS took temporary custody of Christopher and placed him with a relative. Christopher was returned to his mother several days later after it was determined the Division would file an in-home intervention with the juvenile court. DCSFS was in the process of referring the family for intensive in-home services when the near fatality occurred.

1. Actions taken by DCSFS in response to the fatality or near fatality of the child including:

The Office of Child Welfare Investigations (OCWI), assisted by DCSFS, conducted a joint investigation with the Phoenix Police Department.

2. Actions taken regarding the child and/or other children in the home:

Following an assessment of child safety, Christopher and a sibling were removed from the home and placed with a relative.

3. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:



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Services offered to the family include parent aide services, psychological services, supervised visitation and case management.

*Posted information provides whether there have been reports, or any current or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child who has died or suffered a near fatality and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807(F)(2)(a)(iv).

*Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.

Information, if any, regarding the child and other family or household members, not specifically related to the fatality or near fatality, is not posted on the website. This also applies to information, if any, regarding the alleged perpetrator(s) and other family or household members.